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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DONALD JAMES HELMS Jr., AND CAROLYN SAUNDERS HELMS
FACE ADDITIONAL CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY TO EVADE
PAYMENT OF GROSS RECEIPTS TAXES TO THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE**

Acting United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that a federal Grand Jury returned a Superseding Indictment charging DONALD JAMES HELMS Jr., and CAROLYN SAUNDERS HELMS with conspiracy to evade payment of Virgin Islands gross receipts taxes, for the period January 2000, through November 2002. On May 13, 2004, a federal Grand Jury returned an Indictment charging DONALD JAMES HELMS Jr., CAROLYN SAUNDERS HELMS, KATHERINE CARDINAL and JOHNNY NEIL SMITH with conspiracy and structuring monetary transactions, for the purpose of avoiding a currency reporting requirement.

The additional charged offense arose out of an investigation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service of the United States, the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue (VIBIR) and other federal agencies. The investigation revealed that from not later than January 18, 2000, through November 30, 2002, DONALD JAMES HELMS, JR., and CAROLYN SAUNDERS HELMS, operating as WEST INDIES PHONE CARDS (WIPC), sold prepaid phone cards generating in excess of \$7.5 million in gross receipts. The investigation further revealed that no gross receipts

tax returns were filed in the Virgin Islands during that time period, resulting in a tax loss to the VIBIR in the amount of \$309,479.98, not including interest and penalties.

The maximum penalty for the tax conspiracy offense is not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both.

Donald Helms, age 50, and Carolyn Saunders Helms, age 37, are residents of the State of Florida.

The Indictment is a charging document and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Acting U. S. Attorney Jenkins commended the work of the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service of the United States, the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue and other federal agencies who investigated this case.